

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Cancel claims 19, 22 and 24;

Rewrite claims 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28-37;

Add new claims 38-40 as follows:

1.- 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit is a plate cylinder having an ink repellent surface.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each said inactive printing unit has printing surface ~~is defined by~~ a film on said the surface thereof. ~~first cylinder.~~

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has ~~a surface defined by~~ a planographic printing plate thereon operable for use in dampening-solution-free offset printing.

26. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has ~~a surface defined by~~ a relief surfaced printing plate thereon.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit is positionable in relation to the sheet-carrying cylinder with a predetermined printing pressure.

29. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has a surface is defined by a composition that contains at least one of chromium, aluminum, or anodized aluminum.

30. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has ~~a~~ an outer surface defined by an organic or inorganic hybrid polymer on an aluminum substrate.

31. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 29 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has ~~a~~ an outer surface with discontinuities such as cracks, gaps or pores which are filled with inlays of at least one fluoropolymer.

32. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 in which said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has an outer printing surface that is polished to a mirror finish.

33. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 ~~including in which~~ each inactive printing unit has a metering system and applicator roll for selectively applying a release agent to said first cylinder ~~the printing surface~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 38 49 ~~including in which~~ said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has a spray device extending the axial length of said first cylinder for selectively directing a release agent onto ~~the~~ a printing surface of the first cylinder.

35. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 49 ~~including 38 in which~~ said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has a device for controlling the temperature of the printing surface of the first cylinder thereof.

36. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 49 ~~including 38 in which~~ said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit has a cold air temperature control device for controlling the temperature of the printing surface of the first cylinder thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) The printing machine of claim 36 in which said temperature control device is operable within the first cylinder of the inactive printing unit.

38. (New) A printing machine comprising:

a plurality of active printing units for applying a liquid medium to a side of printing material at the operating speed of the machine; said active printing units each having a first cylinder and an associated sheet carrying cylinder; said sheet carrying cylinder of each active printing unit having grippers for engaging and transferring printing material through a nip defined between the first cylinder and the associated sheet carrying cylinder whereby a liquid medium can be applied to the printing material;

at least one inactive printing unit having a first cylinder and an associated sheet carrying cylinder; said sheet carrying cylinder of each said inactive printing unit having grippers for engaging and transferring a sheet though a nip defined between the first cylinder and the associated sheet carrying cylinder of the inactive printing unit; said first cylinder of each inactive printing unit being moveable relative to the associated sheet carrying cylinder to a print-off position such that the printing unit is inactive during a printing operation and not involved in applying a liquid medium to a side the printing material during operation of the printing machine; and

said first cylinder of each said inactive printing unit having a liquid repellant surface and being rotatable at the operating speed of the printing machine with the associated sheet carrying cylinder conveying printing material through the nip between the sheet carrying cylinder and the first cylinder with a printed side of the printing material facing the liquid repellant surface of the first cylinder for enabling passage of the printing material through the nip without smearing of liquid medium previously applied to the printing material in said active printing units.

39. (New) The printing machine of claim 38 in which said first cylinder of each said inactive printing unit is a blanket cylinder having an ink repellant surface.

40. (New) The printing machine of claim 38 in which said first cylinder of each said inactive printing unit has a silicon rubber layer on the surface thereof.